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(g) whether there is any proposal to absorb immediately the personnel of lower subordinate service and equalize their status, emoluments, etc., to that of the personnel of the upper subordinate service?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (b) The number is forty-three.

" (c) Yes. The distinction in designation and emoluments observed in regard to Officers in the Upper and Lower Subordinate Services is shown in the statement [a] placed on the table.

" (d) In 1942, the Government sanctioned the creation of permanent posts of Upper Subordinates not exceeding three every year in lieu of three posts of Lower Subordinates rendered vacant consequent on the promotion of deserving Lower Subordinates of over 20 years' service to the Upper Subordinate cadre until all such Lower Subordinates are absorbed. In making these promotions, the principle enunciated by Government, that such promotions should be from deserving Lower Subordinates who have put in over 20 years of service, has been followed. As stated in reply to clause (b) above, there are now 43 Lower Subordinates who remain to be absorbed.

" (e) The duties performed by the Officers of both cadres are identical, but when, with reference to any particular station (e.g., headquarters station) or work (e.g., Research, teaching, etc.), the duties are considered more onerous, an Upper Subordinate is generally preferred in view of his superior qualifications.

" (f) Lower Subordinates should first be promoted as Upper Subordinates before they can aspire for promotion to Gazetted rank provided they possess the necessary qualifications. However, in 1944 the rules were amended to render them eligible for promotion to Gazetted rank in certain categories of the Madras Agricultural Service during the continuance of the War and for a period of one year thereafter.

" (g) The Director of Agriculture has submitted proposals for the absorption of 39 Lower Subordinates as Upper Subordinates. They are under the consideration of Government."

Assessment on dry lands in Malabar and South Kanara districts.

* 12 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that dry lands in Malabar and South Kanara included in holdings though not cultivated are assessed and charged;

(b) whether the Marjoribanks Committee (1937) recommended that such assessment and charge should not be made unless and until the land is cultivated;

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on page 53 infra.

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(*c*) whether the Government have given effect to this recommendation and if so what the exact orders of Government are;

(*d*) if the recommendation has not been accepted, whether the Government have ever considered the inequity involved in this assessment and whether they propose to issue necessary orders; and

(*e*) what is the loss of revenue to Government involved by granting this concession?

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—" (*a*) In Malabar, dry lands included in holdings which are not cultivated or are used solely for raising seedlings are not charged assessment. In South Kanara, all dry lands included in holdings, whether cultivated or not, are charged assessment.

" (*b*) The Marjoribanks Committee recommended that dry lands included in holdings in South Kanara, though assessed. should not be charged unless and until cultivated.

" (*c*) No.

" (*d*) The whole question of land revenue reform is now under active consideration.

" (*e*) The Marjoribanks Committee estimated the loss of land revenue involved in the acceptance of their recommendation mentioned in the answer to clause (*b*) at Rs. 1·5 lakhs. The figure has not been verified."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, why even though this was brought to the notice of Government by the Marjoribanks Committee and they had made a definite recommendation in their report, the Government have not realised the great injustice that is done to the South Kanara district, while in the neighbouring district of Malabar, dry lands are not charged any assessment? "

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—" Such injustices in the matter of assessment of dry lands have been in existence for a long time and they were due to the mode of settlements that were made before. The Government are now considering the whole question and they are going to introduce legislation to rectify the those wrongs, and the benefit of the legislation will be extended to South Kanara also."

Treatment for cancer.

* 13 *Q*.—MRS. M. N. CLUBWALA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the names of the members of the Executive Committee of the Madras Cancer Association;

(*b*) whether this committee is pressing for the organization of cancer treatment, its early detection, the follow-up of these patients, etc., on a more scientific basis as is obtaining in some of the advanced countries;